

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181605 TOSEC 080229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, AO, UK

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - UK INTERESTS IN ANGOLA
(S/S NO.7515508)

REF: STATE 178443 TOSEC 080119

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM INGERSOLL

1. U.S. REPRESENTATION OF UK INTERESTS IN ANGOLA WOULD MEAN PRIMARILY ASSUMING PROTECTION OF SMALL UK CONSULATE AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVACUATION OF SOME 15 BRITISH SUBJECTS. IT IS, OF COURSE, UNDERSTOOD THAT PROTECTION AND EVACUATION OF OUR OWN CITIZENS WOULD HAVE PRIORITY.

2. MAJOR UK COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ANGOLA IS 90 PER CENT SHARE IN BENGUELA RAILROAD WHICH CARRIES 70 PER CENT OF ZAMBIA'S COPPER EXPORTS AND 60 PER CENT OF MINERAL EXPORTS FROM SOUTHERN ZAIRE. BRITISH ALSO HAVE INVESTMENTS
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IN DIAMOND MINING, VEHICLE (LAND ROVER) ASSEMBLY PLANT, AND BANKING OPERATIONS.

3. IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT A DATE BY WHICH

THE BRITISH WOULD RETURN THEIR OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES TO LUANDA. GIVEN BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN ANGOLA, ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE, AND HER CONSEQUENT DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE STABILITY IN THAT PART OF AFRICA, IT SEEMS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THE UK WOULD WANT TO RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT UNDUE RISK TO ITS REPRESENTATIVES. INDEPENDENCE FOR ANGOLA IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 11; PROVIDED THAT SCHEDULE IS MAINTAINED AND THERE IS A FUNCTIONING CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN ANGOLA, THE BRITISH WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO BE BACK BY OR SHORTLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

4. RECOMMEND YOUR CONCURRENCE IN FAVORABLE REPLY TO HMG.
APPROVE DISAPPROVE

THIS CABLE HAS BEEN CLEARED BY M-MR. EAGLEBURGER AND
AF -MR. MULCAHY. INGERSOLL

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